

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01

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SUBJ: UNDP - 18TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 3A

COUNCIL APPROVAL OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS

1. SUMMARY: FIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS (CPS) FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TUNISIA, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, AND MONGOLIA REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY GOVERNING COUNCIL JUNE 5-6. COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR TUNISIA AND BANGLADESH SINGLED OUT BY FEW OF 28 DELEGATIONS COMMENTING FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION DURING IMPLEMENTATION. ALL FOUR UNDP GEOGRAPHIC ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS GAVE CRISP SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS THEIR REGION OVER PAST SIX MONTHS. END SUMMARY.
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2. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MAKEIDO FOR EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN, AND MIDDLE EAST REGION PRESENTED CPS FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND TUNISIA. HE INDICATED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED ITS VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION AND WAS NOW NET

CONTRIBUTOR BY WIDE MARGIN. CP FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA STRESSES NEED FOR STRENGTHENING ITS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND MODERN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL. IN RESPECT TO TUNISIA CP, MAKEIDO JUDGED CP FULLY IN SUPPORT OF OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL PLAN AND MERITED COUNCIL APPROVAL.

3. FIFTEEN COUNTRIES SPOKE IN SUPPORT OR WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR TUNISIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (POLAND, HUNGARY, BULGARIA, YUGOSLOVIA) REFERRED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA PROGRAM AS TESTING GROUND FOR UNIQUE APPROACHES TO MODERN PROBLEMS. NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS REFERRED TO FACT THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS CONTRIBUTING FAR MORE RESOURCES TO UNDP THAN IT WAS RECEIVING IN FORM OF ASSISTANCE. TUNISIA CP RECEIVED MOST SEARCHING COMMENT WITH FINLAND SUGGESTING THAT PROGRAM CONTAINED FAR TOO MANY ONGOING PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND PERHAPS TOO MANY LONG-TERM EXPERTS, WHEN PROGRAMMING OF SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS FOR SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS MIGHT REPRESENT BETTER USE OF LIMITED RESOURCES. FRG DELEGATE SUGGESTED CP IN TUNISIA MAY NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY ATTENTION BY GOT AND ITS LATE PREPARATION THEREFORE CREATED A CONDITION OF CONSTRAINT WITH MUCH LESS FLEXIBILITY FOR NEW PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE IF PRESENTED TO COUNCIL IN 1972. HE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF CP'S LACK OF INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER DONORS AND HOPED THAT CAREFUL MAINTENANCE OF EVALUATION IN TUNISIA AT SIX-MONTH INTERVALS WOULD STRENGTHEN THE UNDP PROGRAM IN TUNISIA. OTHER COMMENTS LARGELY SUPPORTIVE OF THESE TWO CPS WHICH WERE APPROVED BY PLENARY SESSION ON JUNE 6.

4. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR ASIA AND FAR EAST REGION COOMARASWAMY PRESENTED CPS FOR BANGLADESH, BHUTAN AND MONGOLIA. IN DOING SO HE NOTED THAT ALL COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND FAR EAST REGION NOW HAD VIABLE COUNTRY PROGRAMS THAT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO AND APPROVED BY GOVERNING COUNCIL. HE INDICATED COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH DEPARTED FROM STANDARD UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROACH SINCE BASIC PROGRAM ONLY NOW GETTING UNDERWAY FOR 1974-76. PROGRAM IS RIGHTFULLY OF AN INTERIM NATURE AND IS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL ONLY THROUGH 1976, SINCE PROGRESS OF PROGRAM WILL NEED MORE ACTIVE EVALUATION AND REVIEW IN MID 1975. PROGRAM FOR BHUTAN IS FOCUSED LARGELY ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND FROM SPECIAL MEASURES FUND FOR LEAST DEVELOPED. COOMARASWAMY INDICATED NEED FOR RAPIDLY INCREASED ASSISTANCE MOMENTUM IN BHUTAN SINCE INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE (IPF) WILL BE QUADRUPLD IN 1977-81 CYCLE. COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR MONGOLIA HEAVILY EMPHASIZED PROCESSING INDUSTRIES WHICH HE FELT WERE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN THAT COUNTRY.

5. TWENTY-THREE DELEGATIONS SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THREE CPS FOR BANGLADESH, BHUTAN AND MONGOLIA, OR, AS IN CASE OF U.S., IN SUPPORT OF ALL FIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS PRESENTED TO 18TH SESSION. U.S. DELEGATE ACCENTUATED MAIN FEATURES OF FIVE CPS UNDER REVIEW, I.E. (1.) ACCEPTABLE ADHERENCE TO DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES; (2) NEED FOR GREATER SECTORAL CONCENTRATION AND REDUCED PROJECT SCATTERATION IN AT LEAST TWO COUNTRY PROGRAMS; (3) STRONG SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENED UNDP LEADERSHIP ON PROJECT EVALUATION AND NEED FOR GIVING TRIPARTITE REVIEWS AN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE THEMSELVES BY ELIMINATING MARGINAL ACTIVITIES AND SPEEDING UP LAGGING PROJECTS; AND (4) STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR INCREASING COORDINATING ROLE OF UNDP RESREP IN COUNTRIES WHERE GOVERNMENT PREROGATIVES WOULD SUPPORT SUCH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONOR COORDINATION. U.S. REFERRED ESPECIALLY TO NEED FOR STRENGTHENED COORDINATION IN BANGLADESH WHERE THERE APPEARED TO BE AREAS OF POTENTIAL DUPLICATION AND NEED TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF DONOR'S ACTIVITIES IN SUCH AREAS. UK DELEGATE ALSO REFERRED TO NEED FOR STRENGTHENED COORDINATION IN BANGLADESH AND STATED UK WAS CABLING DACCA TO INDICATE ITS APPROVAL OF BANGLADESH'S CP CONTINGENT UPON STRENGTHENED LIAISON OF MUTUAL INTEREST. MOST OF 23 DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SESSION SINGLED OUT BANGLADESH AS COUNTRY OF GREATEST IMPORT UNDER REVIEW. INDIA CALLED ATTENTION TO ITS PREPAREDNESS TO COORDINATE ALL ITS BILATERAL ASSISTANCE IN WATER RESOURCES FIELD WITH THE GROWING UNDP INVOLVEMENT. CANADA QUERIED EXTENT TO WHICH EXECUTING AGENCIES SENT MISSIONS TO DACCA AND EXTENT TO WHICH THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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FINDINGS WERE INCORPORATED INTO CP PRESENTED TO 18TH SESSION. HE WAS ASSURED BY COOMARASWAMY THAT FINDINGS OF EACH OF THESE UN AGENCY MISSIONS TO BANGLADESH WERE AVAILABLE TO GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH AND UNDP OFFICIALS PRIOR TO FINALIZATION OF CP.

6. BHUTAN, BANGLADESH AND MONGOLIA CPS ALSO APPROVED AT JUNE 6 PLENARY SESSION. AT END OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS OBSERVER FROM MONGOLIA PLEASED WITH COUNCIL TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL RESOURCES COULD BE FOUND IN CURRENT CYCLE AND IN NEXT PROGRAMMING CYCLE TO STRENGTHEN UNDP ASSISTANCE TO MONGOLIA. BANGLADESH OBSERVER ACCENTUATED IMPORTANCE OF UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN BANGLADESH AND FACT THAT POPULATION GROWTH WAS MOST INHIBITING FACTOR IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BANGLADESH.

7. IN ADDITION TO PRESENTATION FIVE CPS, ALL FOUR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS FOR GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS OF UNDP MADE BRIEF STATEMENTS INDICATING PRIORITY CONCERNS OF THEIR REGION. IN SUMMARY THESE WERE: EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST (MAKEIDO) NOTED ENDING OF CRISIS IN MIDDLE EAST MAY WELL INCREASE LEVEL OF PROGRAM DELIVERY WHICH IS ALL TOO LOW IN HIS REGION. MAKEIDO STRESSED THAT ALL IPF REGIONAL RESOURCES FOR 1974-76 PERIOD WOULD BE DEVOTED TO PROJECTS CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. HE INDICATED RANGE OF INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS ARAB

ECONOMIC UNITY SECRETARIAT, WERE BEING DIRECTLY ASSISTED FROM UNDP REGIONAL RESOURCES. ASIA AND FAR EAST REGION (COOMARASWAMY) STRESSED THREE CONCERNS: (1) BUREAU REVIEW PROCESS AT FIELD LEVEL WAS NOW WIDELY PRACTICED AND TRIPARTITE REVIEW WAS UNCOVERING INNUMERABLE CONSTRAINTS TO PROGRAM DELIVERY, WHICH WERE BEING ADDRESSED ON CASE BY CASE BASIS; (2) REGIONAL PROJECTS IN ASIA SEEMED BEST FOCUSED ON FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN FORMER CANADA HAD JOINED UNDP IN UNDERTAKING MAJOR FIVE MILLION DOLLAR JOINTLY- FINANCED FISHERIES SURVEY PROJECT IN THE NORTH CHINA SEA. AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE CONCENTRATED LARGELY ON CROP PRODUCTION IN RAIN-FED AREAS OF ASIA; (3) PHILIPPINE CP REVIEW INDICATED RAMPANT GLOBAL INFLATION WAS RAPIDLY ACCELERATING COSTS OF UNDP INPUTS. THIS IS REQUIRING PHILIPPINES AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION TO RECALCULATE COST OF PROJECT INPUTS IN 1974-76 PERIOD AND AN UPWARD RE-SCALING OF PROJECTS' AGGREGATE COSTS. LATIN AMERICAN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR (VALDEZ) PROMISED NEW APPROACH TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA WITH ELIMINATION OF TRADITIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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USE OF REGIONAL FUNDS. HE SUGGESTED GREATER EMPHASIS ON PLANNING AND EFFECTIVE TRANSFER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BE FACILITATED BY REGIONAL APPROACH, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY SPIRIT OF DYNAMISM IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD BE STRESSED IN ALL FUTURE PROGRAMMING OF REGIONAL PROJECTS. AFRICA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR (DOOKINGUEL) APOLOGIZED FOR FACT SIX CPS STILL NOT PRESENTED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION. EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF ONGOING UNDP PROGRAMS IN AFRICA UNDERWAY, BUT SYNOPSIS WILL BE POSTPONED TO 19TH SESSION, THOUGH HE FELT TRIPARTITE REVIEW WAS VITAL NEW INNOVATION IN PROGRAM MANAGEMENT. HE PLEDGED FULL UNDP SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL UN BUREAU OF SAHEL RELIEF AND THAT ALL UN AGENCIES NEEDED TO RADICALLY IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF AND MEDIUM-TERM RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN SAHELIAN DROUGHT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES. DOOKINGUE ALSO COORDINATOR OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND STATED HALF OF 35 MILLION DOLLAR RESOURCES FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAS NOW BEEN COMMITTED AND BALANCE WILL BE COMMITTED SHORTLY WITH INCREASING EFFORT TO SPEED UP IMPLEMENTATION IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. SULLIVAN

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